Road building by China to Mount Everest Base Camp

1069. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is building a road to Mount Everest Base camp;

(b) if so, the impact which would occur to the system of Himalayas; and

(c) the steps Government has taken to see that such development does not take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) the information is being collected which will be laid on the table of the House.

MCD and NDMC steps to control stray animals

1070. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MCD and NDMC are employing sufficient number of persons to catch stray cattle and bovine animals as the menace of dogs and monkey bites are on the rise;

(b) if so, whether the captured/dogs monkeys are being rehabilitated at such places from where they cannot again come to residential colonies;

(c) whether steps are being taken to ensure that their population in controlled through medical/surgical procedures;

(d) whether any State has done some pioneering work in this direction either from their expertise or through NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) NDMC has reported that sufficient number of persons has been deployed to catch stray cattle and bovine animals. MCD has informed that six teams of monkey catchers are presently working in MCD area who have trapped 1,540 monkeys during April to 13th November, 2007 and efforts are being made to engage more monkey catchers and 5 more teams will be engaged very soon. MCD has removed 11,575 and 6,768 cattle (upto October 2007) for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. The number of dogs sterilized, by MCD for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto October 2007) are 18,428 and 14,196 respectively.

(b) Stray dogs after sterilization and vaccination/immunization are released in the same locality from where they are picked up. The trapped monkeys are further being relocated to Bhatti Mines at Asola in South Delhi after medical examination. In order to restrict the return of the relocated monkeys to the residential colonies, a high wall in Asola Bhatti Mines is being constructed and adequate drinking water and food is being provided for monkeys by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

(c) The stray dogs are sterilized by performing surgery and are being immunized to control the rabies. However, no surgical procedure is carried out for monkeys as the same are protected under Wild Life Protection Act.

(d) NDMC has reported that they are working in coordination with NGOs for implementing animal birth control programme. MCD has informed that Government of Himachal Pradesh

has done some pioneering work in order to control the monkey menace in and around Shimla and the Municipal Corporation of Ahmedabad has made efforts to control the stray dog population in Ahmedabad city by way of sterilization of stray dogs through NGO.

Death of elephants at Lakhari Sanctuary

1071. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of death of two elephants after the "Operation Gaja" at Lakhari Sanctuary in Gajapathi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent these deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per report of the Government of Orissa, death of one elephant took place after two of them were captured and translocated from Andhra Pradesh and released in Lakhari Sanctuary in Orissa. The enquiry conducted by the officials of the Government of Orissa ascribed the death due to trauma caused to the elephant in the course of capture and translocation.

(c) Since then the process of capture and transportation of elephants has been suspended.

Elephant Menace

1072. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 people including a journalist were killed by wild elephants in Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Wild Life Board adopted any steps to prevent those elephants destroying lives and property of people; and

(c) the mechanism that was adopted to control elephant menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per reports of the State Government, 10 people have been killed by wild elephants in Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram Districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 20.00 lakhs to control elephant menace.

Menace of Stray dogs etc.

1073. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that under Article 48 of the Constitution, the State *inter-alia* is required to protect and safeguard the forests and wildlife, especially in preventing the menace of stray cattle;

(b) if so, whether any effective law has been made to prevent the owners of bovine animals including cattle and cows, dogs, etc. from being let loose, thereby harming the citizens by reckless "bites" by dogs; and